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23 APR 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Estimates of Enemy Forces in Cambodia

1. There appears to be some uncertainty in the community about the number of VC/NVA deployed in Cambodia. This memorandum is an attempt to clarify the current estimate of these forces and to place it in perspective. The numbers discussed and the qualifications given to them represent agreed judgments of both CIA and DIA analysts.

2. The strength and number of enemy units using Cambodia will vary considerably, for a number of reasons. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] In fact, however, a large part of a given unit's force may be located several kilometers away in South Vietnam. In addition the estimate will vary depending on whether a unit is engaged in tactical operations in South Vietnam or has been withdrawn into Cambodia for rest and/or refitting. Finally, a sizeable share of the forces included in the estimate are personnel in Rear Services groups which pick up supplies in Cambodia and then move into South Vietnam to distribute them.

3. Given the various uses of Cambodian territory we estimate, in terms of headquarters subordination that the number of VC/NVA forces located in or operating in and out of Cambodia (and excluding troops infiltrating into South Vietnam) would total about 40,000 troops. We estimate that about 60 percent of these troops

are regular combat forces and 40 percent are administrative service or support personnel. Of these 40,000 troops, however, we estimate that only 20,000 to 30,000 troops would actually be located in Cambodia at any one time. With the recent increase in military operations in the eastern provinces we estimate that the number of troops currently in Cambodia is at the high end of our estimated range of 20,000 to 30,000.

4. Although the official DIA estimate on this subject is expressed as 20,000-40,000 troops DIA analysts concur in the qualifications expressed in paragraph 3.



Deputy Director  
Economic Research

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